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## Addressing the Troubling Culture of Sexual Assault

Once again, headlines involve another sexual assault tragedy. Regardless of the ultimate outcome of the reported incident at the University of Virginia, it is undisputed that college campuses in particular, and society as a whole, are seeing an increase in reported incidents of sexual assault. We continue to read reports of these acts nearly every day, but many of us still fall into the trap of believing that sexual assault only happens to somebody else and that it is only committed by people we don't know. The statistics say otherwise.

Our culture needs to change and address this issue. On December 2, the Board of Supervisors approved my board matter that directs county staff to assess current methods to prevent sexual violence, and to utilize those assessments to develop new ideas on how to educate our public school students on sexual assault.

I am also pleased to report that officials at George Mason University, which sits in my district, have been working on this issue for some time. They have agreed to brief me on their efforts, and I plan to urge university officials to tap into whatever resources are available to help them prevent such crimes. I intend to meet with our police to make sure we are doing everything we can to arrest and prosecute offenders.

As a community, we must make larger, systematic efforts to prevent these crimes. We must do more to change our culture, and that means reaching our children before they are in college. The seeds of such conduct are planted long before students set foot on campus, and are nurtured by a culture all too willing to turn a blind eye. We need to teach our children, and population as a whole, that sexual assault is a serious crime and will not be tolerated in our society. We must continue to teach the warning signs of potentially violent behavior. We must also engage in new efforts directed toward those who commit these crimes, and work to ensure sexual assault is viewed with the seriousness it deserves.



**Supervisor Cook has served on Fairfax County Board of Supervisors since 2009 and lives in Kings Park with his wife and children.**

## Mr. Robert Templin Retires After More Than 10 Years of Service

We would like to recognize Mr. Robert Templin, a great contributor to Braddock District and Fairfax County. He is retiring after more than 10 years as President of Northern Virginia Community College. Thank you for your dedicated service!



## A Parent's Guide to Navigating the IEP Process

On November 15<sup>th</sup>, Supervisor Cook hosted an Individualized Education Program (IEP) navigation workshop discussing some of the challenges facing parents and students when an IEP is needed. The workshop included a panel of the following experts: Lisa Fagan, Attorney at Law; Jane Lipp, Assistant Superintendent of Special Services, FCPS; Heather Aberdeen, Parent Education Advocacy Training Center; and Kathleen Segmuller of Huntington Learning Center. Parents and experts discussed plans and goals, and how to best navigate what can sometimes be a very intimidating process.

The panel presentation was followed by two breakout sessions. Breakout session A was focused on IEP Planning for Students with Autism and Significant Intellectual Disabilities (ID)/Developmental Delays (DD) and was hosted by Scott Campbell and Lisa Costantini. It was primarily for parents of students in smaller ratio, self-contained or non-categorical classrooms, and usually with an educational label of autism, DD, ID, or Emotional Disability (ED). Breakout session B focused on how to get where you are going and design IEPs that reflect reasonable goals for students in larger ratio classrooms that are mostly mainstreamed with an educational label of Specific Learning Disability (SLD), Speech & Language (SL), or Other Health Impairment (OHI).

Many local advocacy groups were in attendance as well, and provided additional resources and answered very specific questions. If you are just beginning on this journey or have started and find yourself confused or overwhelmed, please contact Supervisor Cook's office. There are many resources and tools to help you find your way.

## Christmas Bird Counts

The Audubon's Christmas Bird Count is a winter tradition now entering its 115th year. Volunteer groups from all over the country -- and now the world -- observe and record the number and types of bird species found in their areas. All data is collected and compiled, giving researchers an unparalleled look into bird population dynamics. The bird counts will be held between December 14th and January 5th. The Audubon Naturalist Society maintains an [excellent listing](#) of the locations, times, dates, and RSVP information for the bird counts in Virginia, DC and Maryland. The Christmas Bird Count relies solely on the dedication and commitment of volunteers, so brave the cold and come out and help!

## Fairfax County Budget Discussions

Just before Thanksgiving, the Board of Supervisors met with the Fairfax County School Board for the annual joint budget meeting, and began a new round of budget discussions for the upcoming year. There are many tough decisions ahead as the county continues to face many economic challenges. While the Northern Virginia job market is slowly improving, job growth is still lagging behind what was experienced before the recession. In fact, overall economic growth in the Washington, D.C. metropolitan area is dead last among major metropolitan areas in the country, even behind Detroit. This slow job growth is having a big effect on our housing market, and is resulting in lower than anticipated residential values. The commercial market is also struggling as a result, with office vacancy rates at their highest since 1991.

All of this has led to decreased county revenue, and the county is currently projecting a budget shortfall of \$100.89 million for Fiscal Year 2016, which begins July 1, 2015. Since the needs that have been identified are already higher than our current resources, it is incumbent on the Board to prioritize in the upcoming months. As with recent years, another year of tough decisions lies ahead, and Supervisor Cook will be working hard to find solutions.

## Braddock District Champions of Character Honored

Supervisor Cook and Athletic Council Representative Marcia Pape Daniels were pleased to honor four deserving Braddock District citizens as Champions of Character in a ceremony on November 10. The Champions of Character Awards recognize players, coaches, and parents who go above and beyond in demonstrating good sportsmanship and character in youth sports. This year's awardees were **Marisa George, Matthew Orejuela, John Kelleher, and Beth McHale.**



Do you know someone who has demonstrated extraordinary service in the youth sports community while modeling good sportsmanship, respect, fairness, dedication, responsibility, and good character? Nominate them for the 2015 Champions of Character Awards. Program details and nomination forms are available online at [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/ncs/athletics/champofchar.htm](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/ncs/athletics/champofchar.htm).

## ***Supervisor Cook in the Community***

On **November 4<sup>th</sup>**, Supervisor Cook attended an open house for the Wakefield Senior Center at the Audrey Moore Rec Center.

On **November 5<sup>th</sup>**, Supervisor Cook was proud to attend a meeting of the North Springfield Civic Association where he presented President Ken Balbuena with a certificate recognizing the fact that his neighborhood has implemented Supervisor Cook's speeding initiative.

On **November 6<sup>th</sup>**, Supervisor Cook attended the Northern Virginia Leadership Awards luncheon at Waterford at Fair Oaks. Later that afternoon he stopped by Oak View Elementary School to speak to a group of Girl Scouts who are working on their citizenship badges.

On **November 8<sup>th</sup>**, Supervisor Cook attended the Korean Service Center Fundraising Banquet which was held at the Fairfax County Government Center. The event was hosted by the Korean Community Center Organizing Committee and Chairman Sharon Bulova.

On **November 11<sup>th</sup>**, Supervisor Cook attended the Fairfax County Public School Listening Tour hosted by Superintendent Karen Garza, held at Robinson Secondary School.

On **November 12<sup>th</sup>**, Supervisor Cook attended the monthly Braddock District Council meeting at Braddock Hall. This

month's speaker was Michelle Thompson who is the Fairfax County Homeowner and Condominium Association Liaison.

On **November 13<sup>th</sup>**, Supervisor Cook was a lunch guest of the Saint Mary of Sorrows Women's Group. He spoke to them about County programs that are available for seniors. Later that evening, he was proud to be present at the graduation for this latest round of Neighborhood College members.

On **November 14<sup>th</sup>**, Supervisor Cook joined Santa in the tree lighting ceremony at Fairfax Corner as they kicked off the holiday season.

On **November 16<sup>th</sup>**, Supervisor Cook was asked to speak at a workshop titled, *Surviving Teen Stress in Northern Virginia*. The event was hosted by Ravensworth Baptist Church in Annandale.

On **November 17<sup>th</sup>**, Supervisor Cook hosted a meeting at Bonnie Brae Elementary School for the proposed redevelopment of the Hardy Property near Rustburg Place in Fairfax.

On **November 20<sup>th</sup>**, Supervisor Cook spoke to members of the Kings Park Civic Association at their annual meeting which was held at Kings Glen Elementary School. Some of the topics covered were the recent Storm Sewer Study, Supervisor Cook's neighborhood speeding initiative, the Braddock Road Citizens Task Force, VDOT repaving and speed bump repairs, and the status of the Kings Park Shopping Center renovation.





## *Land Use Update*

As often happens at the end of the calendar year, many land use cases that have been under review finally make it to the Board of Supervisors for a public hearing. All of these applications were recommended for approval by the Braddock District Land Use and Environment Committee. They will now go into a prolonged development of a site plan with final engineering for each application.

**SD Homes LLC (RZ-2014-BR-001).** The applicant proposes to rezone this 42,000 square foot property from R-1 to R-3. The proposed density is 2.06 dwelling units per acre, located on Twinbrook Road just south of Braddock Road. This application went through multiple revisions during the year and the applicant is now building a five foot sidewalk and an 8-11 foot gravel shoulder across his frontage. The applicant will construct a drainage ditch that will carry water from Twinbrook to an inlet to the south and pulled back infiltration trenches from the property line to save specific trees on the property of abutting neighbors. The Board approved this project on December 2. The staff report can be found here:

<http://ldsnet.fairfaxcounty.gov/ldsnet/ldsdfw/4468790.PDF>

**Forest Ridge (RZ/FDP-2014-BR-007).** A public hearing before the Board of Supervisors was held on November 18 on a proposal from NV Homes to build 40 single family homes on a 13 acre parcel southeast of Forest Hill Drive and Lee Highway. Many neighbors testified that they had concerns about county staff's recommendation to connect Delsignore Drive

from Shirley Gate Road to Forest Hill Drive. The Braddock District Land Use Committee reconsidered its initial recommendation and requested that Supervisor Cook not connect the road at this time. While Supervisor Cook does believe that interparcel connectivity may be desirable for these communities in the future, it did not appear to be needed at this time. Therefore, Supervisor Cook followed the advice of the Land Use Committee. The development will be constructed with private non-connecting roads, but the roads will be built to public road standards. This will permit the community to consider connecting the roads in the future if it wants. Supervisor Cook's colleagues on the Board supported this recommendation, and the application was approved on December 2. The staff report can be found at: <http://ldsnet.fairfaxcounty.gov/ldsnet/ldsdfw/4468139.PDF>

**Burke Junction. (RZ/FDP-2014-BR-009).** The applicant proposes to rezone eight acres at the northwest corner of Guinea Road and Zion Drive. Seventeen single family homes will be built at a density of 2.1 homes to the acre. Two community meetings were held on this application. In response to community comments, the applicant negotiated a joint easement with the property owner to the north to build a subdivision entrance that lines up with Hilliard Lake Road and allows this property to redevelop in the future. Burke Junction will have private streets but will also have a public access trail connecting Zion to Guinea and the developer has proffered to relocate the old Burke Post Office which was moved to this site in the 1950's. The Board approved this project on December 2. The staff report can be found at

<http://ldsnet.fairfaxcounty.gov/ldsnet/ldsdwf/4468026.PDF>

**Fairfax Center “Transition Area” Comprehensive Plan Amendment.** The Planning Commission endorsed this amendment on November 20 and it was approved by the Board of Supervisors on December 2. For Braddock District, this affects the communities on the south side of Lee Highway between the Fairfax City Line and the Fairfax County Parkway. Supervisor Cook spoke to the Board regarding his serious concerns about the Fairfax Forward process and about the future of one large consolidated parcel of 1.8 million square feet at the east end of Fairfax Center. The owner was not yet ready to develop and staff was unwilling to recommend an option for a future mix of uses until a more specific proposal was developed by the applicant. Supervisor Cook asked that the staff confirm that they would entertain a special study for this area in the future.

**Port Royal Road Plan Amendment 2014-I-A1 (U-Haul)(Ravensworth Industrial Area).** On November 18<sup>th</sup>, the Board of Supervisors held a public hearing on the request from U-Haul to alter the interior of an empty warehouse to increase the Floor Area Ratio up to 1.0 FAR to create a self-storage facility and to allow outdoor truck storage for a rental facility at 5285 Port Royal Road. Supervisor Cook’s colleagues supported his motion to approve the amendment which will now come back through the process for a rezoning to change the zoning from I-4 to I-5 and allow the truck storage. Both the Ravensworth Farm and North Springfield communities supported the change.

**Mrs. Rati’s Family Home Daycare (SE 2014-BR-039).** This Special Exception application is for Home Child Care at 10639 John Ayres Drive. The applicant, K.C. Rati, requests permission to care for up to 12 children in her single family home. Consideration of this application has

been deferred indefinitely by the Planning Commission.

**Christopher at Kenilworth. (RZ/FDP 2014-BR-019)** The applicant, Christopher Land, proposes to develop a 3.6 acre tract of land on Braddock Road immediately to the east of the State Police Headquarters at 9725 Braddock Road. The project proposes 9 single family homes at a density of 2.5 dwelling units per acre with approximately 40 percent of the property being held in open space. Supervisor Cook hosted a Community Information Meeting on November 17 at Bonnie Brae Elementary School. Questions were asked about tree preservation, the status of the current private access road for a parcel to the south, and also about stormwater controls. The Planning Commission Public Hearing is scheduled for February 11, 2015. A detailed application can be e-mailed to anyone with an interest.

**Silas Burke Property: Plan amendment (2014-III-P1-Springfield District).** Sunrise Assisted Living proposes to develop a 4.96-acre site located at 9617 Burke Lake Road on the east side of Burke Lake Road between Shiplett Boulevard and Lee Chapel Road. The property is the home of the historic Silas Burke Mansion, which will be preserved. The proposed Plan Amendment considers the appropriateness of an option for the site to redevelop with either residential use at two to three dwelling units per acre or a assisted living facility with up to approximately 54,000 gross square feet. The proposed development is located in the Springfield District, but across the street from Braddock communities. A community meeting was hosted by Supervisor Herrity on November 6 and many citizens were present to ask questions and voice concerns. The Planning Commission public hearing is December 11, 2014 at 8:15 p.m. and a Board of Supervisors public hearing is scheduled for Tuesday, January 27, 2015 at 4:00 p.m. The historic Burke Post Office would also be moved to the

parcel. The staff report can be found here:

<http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpz/comprehensiveplan/amendments/2014-iii-p1.pdf>

## **95 Express Lanes Slated to Open Soon**

The 95 Express Lanes, spanning from Garrisonville Road in Stafford County to the Edsall Road area on I-395, will open in December. Drivers are encouraged to learn how to use the 95 Express Lanes and obtain an E-ZPass.

When the 95 Express Lanes open, all drivers will need an E-ZPass or an E-ZPass Flex to travel on the lanes. Carpools with three or more people can travel toll-free on the Express Lanes with an E-ZPass Flex set to HOV mode. Other drivers may pay a toll for a faster, more predictable trip. Drivers can obtain an E-ZPass or E-ZPass Flex online at <http://www.ezpassva.com> or by calling (877) 762-7824. [Drivers can also visit one of the 75 convenient Northern Virginia retail locations.](#)

The 95 Express Lanes rules of the road will be in effect 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Tolls for the Express Lanes will be dynamic, meaning that they will change periodically based on real-time traffic conditions to keep the lanes free-flowing. Drivers can learn more by visiting [www.95ExpressLanes.com](http://www.95ExpressLanes.com).

## **Update on Braddock Road Project**

Since last month's Beacon, a consultant has been selected and awarded a contract to begin assisting the Braddock Road Task Force in studying the proposed project area. The company is RK&K consulting and has worked in the County with FCDOT on similar projects previously. The citizen's committee reconvened in December to meet with the consultant for the first time and discuss next steps. The project team (the consultant and FCDOT) have begun collecting data, traffic counts, etc... and will come back to the committee in February with their findings and it is at that time the real work of the committee will begin. Remember, all materials related to this effort, including those distributed at the December meeting, are located online: <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/braddock/braddockroad.htm>.

You may recall that in February of this year, Supervisor Cook, with Fairfax County DOT, hosted a community information meeting. Then, the proposed project was outlined, feedback was collected, and a citizen's committee was introduced. It was also announced that a consultant would be hired by the county to work with the citizen's committee in designing the project. Subsequent to that meeting, the 15 member citizen's committee, composed of representatives of the various HOA and Civic Associations in the potential project corridor, met in both April and May. The purpose of these two meetings was to provide input to FCDOT as they prepared the Request for Proposal (RFP) document that would be used in the consultant selection process.

## VDOT Supports You This Winter

The Virginia Department of Transportation's neighborhood-plowing website and plow-tracking program will again be among tools the agency will use this winter in northern Virginia.

VDOT is responsible for 17,737 lane miles in Fairfax, Loudoun and Prince William counties. In northern Virginia, VDOT has one snow removal program for interstates and high-volume roads such as routes 1, 7, 15, 28, 50, and the Fairfax County Parkway, and another program for subdivisions. During winter weather, crews work on both concurrently.

### Highlights for winter 2014-15:

**Neighborhood plowing page:** Residents are encouraged to continue using [vdotplows.org](http://vdotplows.org) to monitor the status of plowing in northern Virginia neighborhoods. Once it snows more than two inches, residents in Fairfax, Loudoun, and Prince William counties can enter their address and a color-coded snow map shows whether plowing is underway, completed or not yet started in their neighborhood.

**Equipment:** More than 4,000 trucks and plows are available and all are equipped with automatic vehicle locator (AVL) equipment. Special equipment includes:

- A **jet-powered snow melter** for park-n-ride lots where massive snow piles block spaces.
- Seven **high-pressure flush trucks** clear snow and ice around the bollards separating the I-495 Express Lanes and regular lanes.
- A **truck-mounted weather station** provides mobile measurements on road conditions (dry, moist, wet, snow, ice), as well as surface, dew point and air temperature, humidity and thickness of ice. This helps ensure that crews do not over- or under-apply chemicals.
- **Two super-sized front loaders** plow interstates with 20-foot wide blades during severe storms.
- **Speed-activated anti-icing equipment** puts the right amount of material on the road.
- A **super-sized salt dome** at the Beltway and Van Dorn Street holding 22,000 tons – about three times the capacity of a typical dome – helps ensure that crews do not run low during severe storms.

**Pre-treating:** Crews will pre-treat 850 lane miles of trouble spots including:

- 350 lane miles on interstates 66, 95, 395, and 495—including bridges and ramps prone to freezing such as the Springfield interchange and Capital Beltway at Route 1—with liquid magnesium chloride.
- 500 lane miles on major roads, such as Fairfax County Parkway, routes 1, 7, 28, 29, and 50, are pre-treated with salt brine. Brine (77 percent water, 23 percent salt) prevents ice from bonding to the road surface, reduces the need for salt to melt ice, is kinder to the environment and can lower snow removal time and costs.



## Human Services Corner

**The 2014-2015 Fairfax County's Hypothermia Prevention Program** operates from November through March every year and is dedicated to keeping the most vulnerable community members safe during the long, harsh winter months. Without the essential support of nonprofit and faith-based community partners, the program would not be nearly as successful. During the 2013-2014 season, 1,056 individuals were protected at over 36 shelters across the county. It is thanks to the collaborative efforts of the partnership that no individuals in the program died due to hypothermia this past winter. Fairfax County relies on the volunteer spirit of the community and the community partners to help us carry out the life-saving mission to give our most vulnerable neighbors a safe place to stay from the cold. It is a long program that operates using more than 2,300 volunteers to run the shelters.

**The 2014-2015 program** is an integral part of the Fairfax County effort to prevent and end homelessness, and incorporates the collaborative work of our areas faith communities, civic organizations, businesses and individual volunteers. This coalition creates a complete matrix of shelters that are available during the coldest months here in Fairfax County. This is a critical and lifesaving resource offered by the County, and it is also a remarkable way to give directly back to your community. For the third year in a row, Supervisor Cook will be volunteering one evening at his church to help sponsor a hypothermia shelter. He invites you to join him at a program convenient to you. Can you give one evening of your time this winter to help the less fortunate? Contact the office for more information on how you can help.

### Community Events throughout December

**What So Proudly We Hailed, Dec. 11:** Marc Leepson will discuss his latest book, *What So Proudly We Hailed: Francis Scott Key, A Life* at Kings Park Library in Burke starting at 7p.m.

**Genealogy Program, Dec. 12:** Learn your own family history while understanding our common history in a deeper and more intimate way. The Burke Center Library is offering a year-long genealogy program every second Friday of the month at 1 p.m. The program is co-sponsored by the Virginia Room, Fairfax County Public Library's center for genealogical and local historical research. Register at [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library) or call 703-249-1520, TTY 711.

**Boardwalk Astronomy, Dec. 13:** Join naturalists for a tour of constellations, comets and heavenly occurrences at beautiful [Huntley Meadows Park](#) in Alexandria from 6 to 7:30 p.m. [Register online](#). \$6 to attend. For more information call 703-768-2525.

**World War II Christmas at Home, Dec. 14:** Get into the spirit of a 1940s Christmas as you design an ornament, learn about cooking with substitutions, and hear the latest war news during a House Tour at the [Sully Historic Site](#) in Chantilly. Tours are 45 minutes and begin every 15 minutes starting at 4:45 p.m. \$10 to attend. [Register online](#).

### Braddock District Aging in Place, Dec.17:

Are you able to provide health care professionals the following health care information: Your medications and doses? Your hospitalizations and surgeries? Your allergies? The date of your last Tetanus shot? Attend the free seminar, Creating a Personal Healthcare Record, at the Kings Park Library on December 17 from 7:30 – 9:30 p.m. to learn more about how critical this information is in an emergency.



**Winter Survival Camp, Dec. 29:** Learn to survive and have fun in nature's most challenging season. Campers make fire, build shelter, track animals, create snow goggles and more during this wonder-filled adventure into winter wilderness at Hidden Pond Park. Camp is for participants 8-12 years old and the cost is \$210 per person for county residents, and \$225 for non-residents. Please [register online](#). For more information, call 703-451-9588.

### GrandInvolve: Change the World – One Child at a Time

Would you like to have a unique and interesting volunteer experience while making a difference in a school, in a classroom, or even on one child? The Positive Aging Coalition, in partnership with Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS), is recruiting Grandparents and Boomers as volunteers who would like to become mentors and classroom assistants. For a rewarding volunteer experience contact Sara Crummett at [SLCrummett1@fcps.edu](mailto:SLCrummett1@fcps.edu) or by calling (703) 923-5400. Volunteer applications are currently being accepted for Crestwood Elementary School in Springfield.



### Give the Gift of Charity this Holiday Season

The “joy of giving” season is upon us. This year think about “giving” and “giving back” at the same time with the Fairfax County Office of Public Private Partnerships **“12 Ways of Giving”** campaign. This annual event showcases ways for meaningful, local giving during the holiday season. The campaign is an alternative gift giving that benefits the giver and the receiver! The promotion is ongoing and runs through the month of December. *Find and give the perfect gift online at:* [www.fairfaxcountypartnerships.org](http://www.fairfaxcountypartnerships.org).

### New One-Stop Resource Page for Caregivers of Veterans

VirginiaNavigator recently posted a [one-stop resource page for caregivers of veterans](#). The page features articles, resource guides, interactive tools, training modules, an easy-to-use search tool for local support services, and A Caregiver Forum, which allows users to exchange information and get support from other caregivers.

## ***Environmental Update***

**Fish were relocated from Lake Woodglen to Lake Accotink** on November 11. The relocation was observed by many interested residents and community members. Staff from stormwater planning and the Park Authority provided the “electrofishing” service. Over 550 adult fish and several hundred juveniles were captured and transported to Lake Accotink. Bluegill dominated the sample at about 90 percent, with largemouth bass, crappie, red ear sunfish, banded killifish, a few minnows and a couple bullhead catfish rounding out the numbers. There were some very surprisingly large predators found in the lake as well. All captured fish (minus the invasive grass carp) were transported and released in very good condition. Staff may attempt fish relocation one more time in the spring depending on the timing of the dredge.



## **Fairfax Tree Stewards Now Accepting Applications for Spring Training Class**



The Fairfax County Tree Stewards are a core of volunteers that work to improve and protect Fairfax County's Tree Canopy. Each year, Tree Stewards pledge 30 hours of community service and eight hours of continuing education to achieve this goal. Signing up for the spring training class is the first step towards becoming a Steward. Classes meet from February to April on Tuesday evenings, with some Saturday field trips. Topics will include tree biology, tree identification, planting, pruning and maintenance tips, and more. The cost of the training class is \$120, but scholarships are available. For more information or to apply, please contact Jim McGlone by calling 703-324-1489 or send an email to [info@ffxtreestewards.org](mailto:info@ffxtreestewards.org). You can also visit the Tree Steward's website at <http://ffxtreestewards.org/>.